



NSCB News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 10, 2012

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CONSUMER ALERT **CONTRACTORS BOARD WARNS HOMEOWNERS OF ROOFING SCAMMER IN RENO**

RENO, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) is issuing a consumer alert to all residents in Reno and the surrounding areas of a male suspect who is scamming homeowners into paying for unnecessary roofing and vent pipe repairs. The alleged suspect goes by the name James Gregg and has been reported as a white male in his 30s, approximately 5' 10" in height, 180 pounds, and curly brown hair with a mustache. The alleged suspect was seen driving a newer white van with no company signage/logo and a ladder on the side. Reports have also indicated Gregg may be traveling with a woman.

Details received by NSCB indicate Gregg may be targeting seniors who are out in their yard while he drives through the neighborhood. Gregg approaches the victims, claims to notice that certain roofing repairs are needed, performs substandard work on the home upon the homeowner's consent, and receives payment before leaving the property. Gregg is alleged to have scammed homeowners multiple times, returning to "check on the work" and then convincing the homeowner additional repairs are needed.

"Scams like this are real and can quickly affect many residents within a neighborhood if the warning signs are not noticed early on," stated NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. "We want to ensure homeowners know what red flags to look for and encourage them to contact the Board immediately if suspicious contracting activity is taking place."

Red flag warnings of unscrupulous contractors

- Unable to provide a business card/contact information/contractor's license number
- Contractor has "extra" materials from a previous job
- Contractor solicits work because they noticed issues with your home
- Contractor asks to perform a free inspection, followed by a laundry list of repairs that need to be made
- Contractor does not want to put the agreement in writing
- Contractor demands cash payment

Scams such as this have been frequently used by "travelers," or individuals who move rapidly throughout the states, soliciting to perform work for homeowners, receiving payment prior to the work being performed, and then leaving town before doing so. They often target elderly victims and are known to perform door-to-door solicitations.

Homeowners should report all suspicious activity or unlicensed contracting activity to **NSCB's Unlicensed Contractor Hotline: (702) 486-1160 or (775) 850-7838.**

Homeowners and seniors interested in learning more about these scams are encouraged to attend one of NSCB's Senior Awareness Programs. These events provide information on scams targeting seniors, information about warning signs, and what resources are available if you've been victimized. Below are the dates and times of upcoming programs. Homeowners can contact Jennifer Turner at 702-486-1139 for additional information.

- October 25 – Las Vegas – Doolittle Senior Center – 10AM
- October 29 – Boulder City – Boulder City Senior Center – 10:30AM
- October 30 – Las Vegas – Lieburn Senior Center – 1PM
- November 5 – Carson City – Carson City Senior Center – 2:30PM

Common scams to be cautious of:

- Door-to-door solicitations
- High-pressure sales tactics
- Demands for cash payment
- Demands for a large down payment

Tips for hiring contractors:

1. Only hire licensed contractors.
2. Check the contractor's license number by utilizing our Online Contractor Search at www.nscb.nv.gov
3. Get three references and review past work.
4. Get at least three bids.
5. Get a written contract and do not sign anything until you completely understand the terms.
6. For pool contracts, pay 10% down or \$1,000 - whichever is less, if a deposit is required.
7. Don't let payments get ahead of the work. Keep a record of all payments.
8. Don't make a final payment until you are satisfied with the job.
9. Don't pay cash.
10. Keep a job file of all papers relating to your project.

Additional information for consumers is available on NSCB's website at www.nscb.nv.gov

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